

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report for year ending December 31st, 1905.

Area of Urban District in Acres 1184·020, Exclusive of Land Covered by Water.

Population, 1901 Census, 1710; Inhabited Houses, 419;

Average Number of Persons per House, 4·08.

GENTLEMEN :—

Birth Rate.

During the year 30 births were registered, viz., 14 males and 16 females, giving a birth-rate of 17.64 per 1000 per annum. The average for the ten years 1895—1904, was 20.58 per 1000 per annum.

Death Rate.

During the same period 30 deaths were registered, viz., 12 males and 18 females, giving a death rate of 17.64 per 1000 per annum, including two visitors. The gross average for the ten years 1895—1904, was 13.98, nett 13.13.

The Zymotic death-rate (whooping cough) is 1.17 per 1000 per annum. Deaths of residents in the Workhouse, not included in above number, but belonging to Salcombe, 4.

Of the above deaths 4 died under one year, one of 1 and under 5, two of 15 and under 25, seven of 25 and under 65, and sixteen of 65 and upwards.

Whooping Cough	...	...	caused 2 deaths
Diarrhœa...	...	...	„ 1 „
Phthisis ...	...	...	„ 2 „
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	„ 1 „
Cancer ...	...	...	„ 4 „
Pneumonia	...	...	„ 1 „
Asthma ...	...	...	„ 1 „
Premature Birth	...	...	„ 1 „
Heart Disease	...	...	„ 1 „
All other causes	...	...	„ 16 „

Total from all causes ... 30

Sickness.

97 new cases of sickness occurred among out-door paupers, and three in other practices. Smallpox caused 1 case, Scarlatina 1, Enteric Fever 2, Whooping Cough 3, Epidemic Influenza 17, Bronchitis 7, Pneumonia 6, Heart Disease 1, Dyspepsia 14, Parturition 1, Injuries 2, Surgical Affections 2, Other Diseases 43, Total from all causes 100.

SMALLPOX.—A case reported on April 3rd, at Sunny Cliff, fully and specially reported on at the time, and full precautions taken (isolation, etc.,) brought from Southampton by s.s. Nile from Brazil. Fortunately no further cases arose, as there is no Smallpox nor Isolation Hospital in this or adjacent districts, nor any place yet found to erect tents. The combined authorities have not yet purchased land for this purpose, though the matter has been considered.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Two cases occurred, one in June at 26, Buckley, the other in July at 6, Orestone, in boys, both not strong, and with poor sanitary surroundings. All precautions taken and improvements effected to premises.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Was epidemic in September quarter (two deaths), also prevalent in adjacent district.

INFLUENZA.—Also epidemic in March and December quarters to some extent.

DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT.—Same as in Annual Report of 1901.

Sanitary.

Of the items mentioned in last annual report the following are now completed or abated.

Orestone, Nos. 6 and 9, W.C. erected.

Southern Mill Farm, pail closet much cleaner and improved.

No. 17, Church Street, Ventilating Shaft put at end of sewer.

3, Thorning Street, Rain Tank beneath kitchen abolished, also a Sewer emptying on the Foreshore, extended 50 feet to deeper water, (see Sickness last Annual Report).

Cesspit, South Sands, delays have occurred with the plans of Engineer for Septic Tanks, and correspondence is still taking place with regard to the removal of sludge, etc. This matter is still in abeyance, but will, I hope, be settled shortly.

In our systematic and special inspections, self and Inspector note :

Re Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, Section 132, there are 8 Bakehouses (none underground) 1 Laundry, 1 Tailor's Workshop, 4 Sempstresses Workshops, 2 Boatbuilders' Workshops, 3 Carpenters' Workshops, all clean, ventilated, drained, and with sufficiency of airspace, and sanitary conveniences, separate where required.

There are no Homeworkers.

There is one Engine House, with 2 oil engines fenced, 2 Livery Stables, one at Hannafords with no convenient water supply.

There are 13 Dairies and Cowsheds, of the latter, four require limewashing.

There are two Slaughter Houses, and these are kept clean

One public W.C. and Urinal, clean.

The Town Refuse Heap Space was filled up when visited, and Refuse taken elsewhere; lately it has been partly cleared, and the space for use not sufficiently large for the purpose.

Your Inspector Reports :—

Four New Houses certified to comply with Bye-laws, Five New W.C's.

One Cottage at Higher Batson, enlarged (Legassick's).

Septic Tanks at North Sands, taken over by your Council.

The Path in front of Victoria Place, and Newton Road have been newly made up.

Five Nuisances, Various, Abated.

Water Supply.

The old Oil Engine has been Repaired. The New Receiver is not yet Fenced, but will be shortly. The leak from mill leat dropping on to its top, has been piped away. A New Road has been made here for easier access to Pumping Station, also a Shed Erected for Storage of Oil.

The Water Supply, except for a few weeks, has been constant. The Reservoirs and occasionally used ends of the mains should be periodically cleaned and flushed to ensure a "CLEAN" supply.

The Proposed Supply for Higher Batson was found deficient in quantity at place gauged, other gaugings are being taken near Blackmore Valley, before arrangements can be made with owner, to carry out this scheme.

For the Five Houses and Hotel at the south of South Sands, a New Cistern has been built, and New Supply Pipe laid where defective.

Rainfall, 30.41 inches at Springfield. Average, 1896—1905, 36.69 inches.

Sanitary Condition.

The Scavenging and Refuse Collection, the latter three times weekly, and weekly in outlying parts of the district, about the average.

The offensive state of Foreshore at Chapel End has been improved by a re-extension of the sewer outlet.

No appreciable improvement of rest of Foreshores adjacent to the Town.

The Sewer Outlets should be cleared periodically, at Spring Tides.

I enclose Tables 1, 3, 4, and 5.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ARTHUR PEARCE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Salcombe, January 23rd, 1906.